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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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## **Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation Awards Eight Scholarships**

Lincoln, NE (July 5, 2017) – The Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation (NCCEF) has awarded eight scholarships totaling \$19,000 for the 2017/18 academic year to students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources and the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) at Curtis.

The NCCEF scholarship program was initiated for the 1993/94 academic year with funding from voluntary contributions from the agricultural cooperatives which are members of the Nebraska Cooperative Council. Since the program's inception, 181 scholarships totaling \$180,100 have been awarded.

To be eligible for the scholarships, students must be majoring in agricultural business/economics at UNL or agribusiness or ag production systems at NCTA. Eligibility is restricted to sons or daughters of a parent or legal guardian who has been an active member, director, or employee for at least the prior three years of a cooperative which has been a member in good standing of the Council for at least five years. Other criteria are used by UNL and NCTA.

For the first time, the NCCEF is awarding one \$2,500 scholarship in honor of Robert C. Andersen to an upperclass student at UNL:

- ❖ **Chris Coulter**, son of Sam & Linda Coulter of Bassett, will be a junior at UNL majoring in agribusiness. The Coulter's are members of Farmers/Ranchers Co-op Assn in Ainsworth and Farmers Pride in Battle Creek.

In addition, the recipients of NCCEF Scholarships in Honor of Michael S. Turner include 6 recipients of \$2,500 scholarships at UNL and 1 recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship at NCTA:

- ❖ **Moriah Heerten**, daughter of Ron & Sandra Heerten of Springview, will be a junior majoring in agricultural economics. The Heerten's are members of Farmers/Ranchers Co-op Assn in Ainsworth and Central Valley Ag Co-op in York.
- ❖ **Alexander Frerichs**, son of Wayne & Judy Frerichs of Lodgepole, will be a senior majoring in agricultural economics. The Frerichs' are members of Crossroads Co-op Assn in Sidney, Panhandle Co-op Assn in Scottsbluff, and Frenchman Valley Farmers Co-op in Imperial.
- ❖ **Eric Klitz**, son of John & Alice Klitz of West Point, will be a sophomore majoring in agribusiness. The Klitz's are members of Central Valley Ag Co-op in York.
- ❖ **Erika Harms**, daughter of Randy & Karla Harms of Glenvil, will be a junior majoring in agricultural economics. The Harms' are members of Fairfield N/S Co-op Fertilizer and Cooperative Producers Inc in Hastings.

- ✧ **Brandon Nichols**, son of Dale & Tammi Nichols of Bridgeport, will be a senior majoring in agricultural economics. The Nichols' are members of Panhandle Co-op Assn in Scottsbluff and Crossroads Co-op Assn in Sidney.
- ✧ **Jacob Uhlman**, son of Tom Uhlman of Clatonia, will be a freshman at UNL majoring in agribusiness. The Uhlman's are members of Farmers Co-op in Dorchester.
- ✧ **Donovan Buss**, son of Bryan & Diane Buss of York, will be a first year student at NCTA majoring in Ag Production Systems. The Buss' are members of Aurora Co-op Elevator Company and Central Valley Ag Co-op in York.

"The Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation is honored to provide students with financial support, allowing them to be able to study agricultural business/economics. Education is one of the fundamental cooperative principles, and this program continues to be an important part of our efforts to help youth understand the cooperative way of doing business and interest them in pursuing careers in the agricultural industry here in Nebraska," according to Gerald Schmidt, Foundation Board Chairman.

The purposes of the Nebraska Cooperative Council Education Foundation are to promote and encourage high school graduates to pursue higher education in the agricultural and agribusiness fields through scholarships and the implementation of school-to-work programs with participating Nebraska cooperatives; to encourage high school graduates to remain in Nebraska in agricultural pursuits all of which will result in community betterment; and the preservation of agriculture as a way of life.

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